Pursuant to the Government's announcement in the Budget 2001-02, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has submitted a report, which, *inter-alia*, provides a blue print for implementing pension reforms in the unorganised sector. The Government has initiated a review of this IRDA report through a Group of Ministers.

In so far as the Government servants are concerned, the Government has already envisaged in the Budget 2001-02 a new pension scheme, based on defined contribution for new entrants. Pursuant to this announcement, a High Level Expert Group was constituted to provide a road map for introducing new pension system for new recruits entering Government. The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Government.

Sick co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh

2746. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group constituted to enquire into the working of co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh has identified 41 banks as loss makings; and

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has taken steps to safeguard the interests of depositors of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Expert Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh has mentioned in its report that 41 banks in the State are loss making. However, the Committee has listed names of only 39 banks in this regard.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken various steps such as issue of direction under section 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies), issue of operational instructions, issue of showcause notice for cancellation of license, etc. in respect of 16 banks to safeguard the interest of the depositors. The position of the remaining 23 banks is also being

closely monitored by RBI as well as by the State Level Review Committee under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Frauds in retail brokerage unit by Citi Bank

2747. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEC has detected major frauds by Citi Bank in the activities of its retail brokerage unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by SEC to initiate penalties and punitive action for such violations; and

(d) if not, in what manner Government propose to protect small investors in the stock market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of House.

Concessional loan scheme for States

†2748. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Central Government to provide loans to States under the concessional loan scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of States proposed to be brought under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.